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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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**STOCKTON MAN SENTENCED TO 20 YEARS IN FEDERAL PRISON**

SACRAMENTO--United States Attorney McGregor W. Scott announced today that OCTAVIO HERNANDEZ SUAREZ, 28, of Stockton, was sentenced today by United States District Judge Edward J. Garcia to 20 years in federal prison. The defendant was found guilty of conspiring to distribute methamphetamine, and possessing methamphetamine with the intent to distribute, by jury on May 12, 2004.

This case is the product of an extensive/joint investigation by the United States Drug Enforcement Administration and the San Joaquin County Metropolitan Narcotics Task Force.

According to Assistant United States Attorney Kenneth J. Melikian, who prosecuted the case, it was proven at trial that Suarez delivered in excess of one pound of crystal methamphetamine to a co-defendant, who had agreed to sell that crystal methamphetamine to an undercover narcotics agent. The quantity of crystal methamphetamine mandated that Suarez receive a minimum sentence of 10 years in prison. His sentence was doubled to 20 years in prison because he had suffered a prior felony drug trafficking conviction before his involvement in this offense.

A copy of this press release is available at <http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/cae/home>, select Press Releases.

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